

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 68%

Partly cloudy sky

Sensex 57,989 | Nifty 17,100 | Gold 60,370 | Silver 74,400 | Dollar 82.55 | Euro 88.08 | GBP 100.13



WORKING IN SYNC

KRDCL floats tender for synchronisation of 136 traffic signals

PAGE 3



DRAINED OUT

Unrequested drain work in Vikas Layout disrupts lives of residents

PAGE 4

Wheelchair user collaborates with city police, elected representatives, corporates to install ramps in over 17 police stations

RAMPLIFY THIS

RampMyCity aims to make commons wheelchair accessible

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a bid to make public spaces accessible to the specially abled, Prateek Khandelwal, a wheelchair-bound man, collaborated with Bangalore City police, elected representatives and corporates to install ramps in over 17 police stations in the city.

Khandelwal met with an accident in 2014 that left him wheelchair-bound; since then, he has been working towards making public spaces accessible to the specially abled. In 2018, he started project RampMyCity to make commons wheelchair accessible. "A lot of people go to the police stations; people who are wheelchair-bound find it difficult to access the stations as there are no ramps. Hence we decided to have this project implemented. We collab-



“We need to ensure that our cities are accessible for all, especially our specially abled citizens

— Prateek Khandelwal

orated with Bengaluru City police, and they readily agreed to have the ramps installed,” said Khandelwal.

The project was implemented using CSR funds. Khandelwal's team designed and manufactured the ramps. "The team first conducted an audit to check if the

space had enough room for the ramps to be installed. If there was enough space that didn't interfere with others, they installed the ramps. We started the project of installation of ramps in December and finished it by February end," said Khandelwal.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

EAT STREET BLUES



‘Construction works generating dust that accumulates on food served to customers’

Vismaya Vinay
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Dug-up roads, heaps of mud and slushy pathways are a common sight at the popular VV Puram Thindi Beedi or food street disrupting the business of vendors and foodies alike. The food street stretches from Sajjan Rao Circle to RV Road. The area is lined with eateries that serve up several delicacies from across Karnataka. The BBMP had previously proposed a development project that included the installation of benches, underground utilities and creation of an open space for recreation to the visitors to the place.

The planned project was expected to be completed within four months after the proposal. Although the project aims to beautify the famous street, shop vendors and pedestrians are facing numerous challenges.

"We are facing a lot of problems because of the re-construction project. The workers have dug up the path that leads to our store. Many customers refrain from entering our store. We are earning only 30% of profit compared to what we used to earn earlier. We are unable to pay

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 For your safety

To learn one of the most important safety measures, head to a live demo of the anti-intrusion fogging system that will help to keep burglars away. The demo presents a 21,000 square feet area covered with fog, lasting for 30 to 40 minutes. **Where:** Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre; **When:** March 20; 11 am



02 Love for poetry

Don't miss this if you are a poem lover. Celebrate World Poetry Day 2023 with 'Pay for Poem' initiative. Being held at Urban Solace which is known to support poets in Bengaluru, the aim of the event is to promote writing, reading and publishing of poetry. The initiative welcomes anyone irrespective of whether they are a poet or not. Walk directly and grab the chance to write a poem and get paid with a coffee. **Where:** Urban Solace Cafe
When: Tuesday, March 21, 11 am

03 Board games



Bangalore Chess Club is back with its another edition of Chess Connect. The club welcomes players from all age groups to experience the moves on the chess board in person rather than offering an online game. You need not be a professional to participate here. **Where:** Lahe Lahe; **When:** Saturday, March 25; 10 am

Kannada: Need of the hour

University addresses dire need for textbooks and reference materials in Kannada for major courses like science, technology, and commerce across Karnataka

I Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Recently, the Governor of Karnataka Thawarchand Gehlot made an announcement that the state government will be publishing all the textbooks related to higher education in the Kannada language.

Universities say that the move of translating texts into local languages can really help in making Indian higher education more inclusive across the state.

"The other day Karnataka State Higher Education Council also had a meeting with the chancellor and all the vice-chancellors where we discussed the same. Right now the study material does exist in local languages in some selected courses, mainly in the social science courses. Since there are no prescribed texts as such, the reference material and course material is translated into Kannada by a few translators," said Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice Chancellor of Bangalore City University (BCU).

Some universities also have self-instruction material for their students such as Karnataka State University, he added.

However, for most courses



Universities say that the move of translating texts into local languages can help in making Indian education more inclusive

from science, technology, and commerce courses, there is a dire need for textbooks and reference material in the local languages.

"Out of 4 crore students, almost 3 crore students are enrolled in these courses, but there is no study material available in the local languages. These courses need to be strengthened, and the material should be made available for conventional general universities, such as BCU. Only then, the quality of educa-

“ Out of 4 crore students, almost 3 crore students are enrolled in these courses, but there is no study material available in the local languages – L Gandhi, BCU

tion and employability can be enhanced," he explained.

In these courses, the student composition is very diverse on a

socio-economic level, and thus, lack of study material in their local language is a disadvantage for many.

"These things need to be addressed, and quality should be made available, and textbooks from various languages should be made available in these local languages. In many universities, all 54 boards of studies have been given the responsibility to identify the texts and reference books needed to be translated into the Kannada language. Along with texts in the local language, audio-visual mode of study material is also a need of the hour," Gandhi told Bangalore Mirror.

Last month, the UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar had also shown concern for the lack of textbooks and study materials in local languages for many of the courses in higher education, science, commerce, and professional courses and had urged the chief ministers and governors across the states to strengthen and encourage higher education in local languages at colleges and universities.

The UGC also held a meeting in December 2022 with international publishers to discuss the possibility of translating undergraduate textbooks written in English into India's regional languages.

VK Street Sambhrama: Full of merrymaking

I Vismaya Vinay
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It was a fun filled Sunday for the residents of Adugodi who reclaimed their road to celebrate the VK Street Sambhrama programme organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror in association with Nava Karnataka Foundation. The event was graced by the presence of eminent personalities such as Anil Shetty, Amrutha Iyengar, Dhanya Ramkumar, Pavana Gowda, Kushi Ravi and the like.

Street Sambhrama incorporated events such as musical chairs and live music by rapper All Ok. "Our Sundays are usually the laziest day of the week. Participating in an event like this over the weekend boosts our entire week. This becomes a good reason to step out of the house and keep ourselves distracted from our phones," said Puneeth, a resident of the area.

Along with fun-filled activi-

ties, the event focused on creating awareness on physical well-being by conducting Zumba and yoga sessions coached by professional instructors.

Pavana Gowda, a yoga practitioner encouraged the public to practice yoga on a daily basis. "If you want to give yourself a gift, practice the art of yoga," she said. Lakshmi, a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) pourakarmika, told Bangalore Mirror that she was very happy to be a part of the event.

"We are always busy with our own lives. I am very pleased that the event was held close to the statue of Puneeth Rajkumar. Dancing with celebrities made me very happy," she said. Other participants added that the initiative taken by BM and VK helped children understand traditional games. The event added nostalgia for adults as they saw their children participate in fun activities.

"This event is true to its name because this event is nothing but pure celebration. This is one



VK Street Sambhrama hosted some fun-filled activities for children, and conducted Zumba and yoga sessions



such event that upholds Indian culture and traditions. The programmes and games organised here uplift healthy competition among children. I am happy to

see my children learn and participate in games that I used to play in my childhood," said Praveen, another resident. Furthermore, the event hosted several competitions such as Rangoli competition and tug of war. "My acquaintance with Bangalore Mirror and Vijaya Karnataka dates back to 10 years. It gives me extreme joy to join hands with the leading media house to organise this event. The sole purpose of this event is to bring people of different walks of life together," said Anil Shetty, founder of Nava Bengaluru Foundation.

Bengaluru auto drivers are on strike

More than one lakh auto rickshaws are expected to stay off the roads today. The Bengaluru Auto Drivers Unions' Federation called for a strike in support of their long-pending demands, including a ban on whiteboard and e-bike taxi services. They are going to be on strike from midnight on Sunday to midnight on Monday.

"We have been demanding the government ban Rapido bike taxis and other whiteboard bike services which are affecting our livelihood

We have submitted a memorandum to the authorities appealing to them to meet our genuine demands, but it has been in vain," said Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers' Union president M Manjunath.

Some students are using their bikes under the Rapido bike services to earn money too, he alleged.

The union general secretary C Sampath also agreed that the bike-taxi services have had an adverse impact on auto drivers' livelihoods. "Whiteboard bikes are being used

to carry passengers who are supposed to use auto rickshaws," he said.

"For the last few years, auto drivers have seen a dip in business due to these two-wheeler taxis. We are facing losses, and are unable to repay loans, fees, or rent," said another union leader.

He said that they had earlier warned the government not to provide permission, but the latter had 'turned a blind eye' to their demands.

-BMB

Death toll of avoiding toll

A KSRTC bus trying to avoid the toll plaza on Bengaluru-Mysuru National Highway hit a bike near Rajarajeshwari Hospital, killing a biker and seriously injuring another person.

The bus, which was supposed to go from the city to Mysuru on the morning of March 19 went through the toll gate road. However, since there is no entry for vehicles that do not pay toll, the bus had to be taken back on

the same road through the one-way. The driver of the bus hit the bike while returning to the service road, ignoring vehicles driving on the one-way road. There were two people on the bike and one died on the spot.

Local police immediately rushed the injured person to RajaRajeshwari Hospital and he is under treatment. Due to the accident, there was a traffic jam on the expressway for some time.

-BMB



Working in sync

KRDCL floats tender for synchronisation of 136 traffic signals in city

I Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Recently, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) announced the addition of 163 adaptive signals to its existing numbers. The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) has floated a tender for the upgrade and synchronisation of 136 traffic signals for Rs 53 crore. 29 new signals will also be installed in a larger bid to solve the city's traffic woes.

As per the tender, the bidder will be responsible for providing the commissioning and synchronisation of the new adaptive traffic control signal system at 29 locations. Additionally, they will have to provide services for the maintenance of 165 adaptive signals for a period of five years under the Bengaluru City Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project to BTP. The tender has been called for an estimated project cost of Rs 53.643 crore. The project is estimated to be completed within 12 months and two months of the testing period.

The existing traffic signals in the city are to be upgraded with adaptive controls, better displays (signal aspects), and safety features for commuters. The system should be capable of adjusting the signal timing parameters in real-time according to the vehicular statistics and short-term fluctuations of traffic demand, resulting in an improvement in the efficiency of traffic operation. Adaptive control of traffic signals will also provide green intervals depending on the changing pattern of vehicle demand over various approaches to a roadway intersection. Green

“It is important for signals to operate in coordination. With a properly integrated signal system, commuters can get green intervals at lengthy corridors

-Traffic expert MN Sreehari

intervals are estimated based on measured or predicted levels of vehicle demand. As vehicle demand changes, the green intervals provided to various intersection approaches also vary. Adaptive control of traffic signals can reduce the level of vehicle stops, delay at the signal, vehicle emission, and most importantly, delay in the augmentation of the capacity of roadway facilities by providing additional traffic lanes. The signal priority solution will work in the future for providing conditional priority based on emergency vehicle requests and public transit buses.

However, traffic experts are of the view that certain rudimentary traffic issues need to be addressed for the successful implementation of adaptive signals. "It is important for these signals to operate in coordination. With a properly integrated signal system, commuters can get green intervals at lengthy corridors. Delay in commute in the city is due to isolated signals operating without synchronisation. Another major issue is to address the parking problem in the city. Vehicles are parked on both sides of the road. Authorities need to issue notifications and penalise offenders," said traffic expert MN Sreehari.

intel[®] evo™

Sleek, powerful,
and long-lasting battery.
Why not have it all!

Intel® Evo™ laptops for the
ultimate premium laptop experience.



Laptops. Evolved.



Fast-charging,
long-lasting battery¹



Instant
wake²



Intelligent
collaboration



High-speed
connectivity³

For the latest offers on Intel® Evo™ powered laptops, visit your nearest retail store

Available at leading retail partners

amazon.in

croma
A YASHA Enterprise

Flipkart

Reliance Digital

Chat with us



¹ Time taken to drain from 100% to critical battery level while performing workflows under a typical-use environment comprising multiple cloud-based and local apps and web pages including Google Chrome, Google G-Suite, Microsoft Office 365, YouTube and Zoom, including limited periods of non-use. Testing conducted on laptops connected to 802.11 wireless, and with shipped hardware configurations including Windows 10 and 250-nit LCD screen brightness. Testing results as of August 2020, and do not guarantee individual laptop performance. Power and performance vary by use, configuration and other factors.

² Results may vary. Details at www.intel.com/itthenmobile.

³ Versus standard Wi-Fi. Subject to router requirements and available signal. Details at intel.com/PerformanceIndex-connectivity.

© Intel Corporation. Intel, the Intel logo, and other Intel marks are trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries. Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

The citizens are drained

Unrequested drain work in Vikas Layout disrupt lives of residents

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In Vikas Layout of Maruthi Nagar, Kempegowda Ward (Yelahanka zone), drains that were in a good condition are being demolished and reconstructed without any public appeal.

NS Satwik, a resident of the area, said, "The drain in front of my house was fine. I never complained to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The workers engaged by the contractor removed foundation stones of my compound wall for remodelling the drain."

The other problem is the agency allowing construction of a huge building to accommodate an educational institution with over 300 students. The building lacks proper access to the road. As per the norms, an educational institution of this magnitude should have a 40 feet road between the main road and the campus. However, students, vans, and other vehicles have to use a 20 feet road meant for residents.

"I do not know how the BBMP sanctioned the plan. Vehicles commuting on the narrow road have become a nuisance for us. We are unable to have a sound sleep. We want BBMP authorities to verify that the educational institution has a proper plan," said another resident.

The other problem is the installation of stone benches in the layout. "There was no need for the authori-



This is the state of Vikas Layout of Maruthi Nagar in Yelahanka's Kempegowda Ward; residents in the area report that authorities started demolishing drains that were in a good condition to begin with

ties to install the stone benches on drains covered with cement slabs. Mischief-mongers are misusing these benches. It has become tough for women to walk on these roads. I recently assisted a woman to reach her home safely," said Nagaraj, a BBMP employee.

One resident said that he is compelled to keep an eye on mischief-mongers. "I have seen a few people using the stone benches for drinking. There are occasions when empty beer bottles are found on the benches," they said.

Hanumanthaiah, also a resident, said that the residents had no issues until the construction of the educational institution. Roopa, a homemaker, told Bangalore Mirror that prior to the construction of the structure, residents had access to Palanahalli (that connects to the main road). "Now, we have to depend on a narrow road to reach the main road. I want the authorities to remove the wall that is blocking our



way to Palanahalli," she said.

Meanwhile, Kempegowda Ward Assistant Engineer Ramasangevaiah

“There was no need to install the stone benches on drains covered with cement slabs. Mischief-mongers are misusing them

— Nagaraj, BBMP employee

said the development of drains was taken up as part of the package of work for the Kempegowda ward. "If the residents do not want the development of drains, we will stop. I will ask the contractor to complete the ongoing drain work as early as possible. We will asphalt the roads at Vikas Layout after the completion of the drain work," he told BM.

BBMP Executive Engineer (Yelahanka) Sudhakar Reddy said that he would look into the education institute's construction.

MVM Group of Institutions were unavailable for comment.

Digging for chaos in Ejipura main road

Road work makes it hard for commuters, students currently appearing for their exams

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The residents of Ejipura main road are upset about the road being dug up in their area.

They say that the dug-up road is causing frequent traffic congestion and inconvenience to everyone. The residents claim that due to the rampant digging, they are now left with no space to commute properly. Ashwath K, a resident of the area, said, "The officials have been digging this place up, inconveniencing us greatly. We are now left with no space on the road through which we can take our vehicles out. The frequent traffic congestion is also causing a lot of problems for us."

Some of the residents also said that they have to use other routes, which end up increasing their travel time. Ashish Krishan, one such af-



Road digging in Ejipura is reportedly leading to frequent traffic congestion; commuters are being forced to rely on other routes

ected local, said, "Since the road has been dug up, it is becoming very difficult to take our vehicles out. If there are too many cars, there will be traffic congestion. So, in order to avoid that, I now have to take my vehicle through a completely different route. However, that ends up

increasing my travelling time. They should complete whatever work they are doing as soon as possible so that we residents do not have to face any more problems."

Residents also mentioned that the situation has become difficult for students who are currently ap-

pearing for their exams. Adrita S, another resident, said, "My daughter is currently taking exams in her school, and on top of that, the condition of the road is like this. We have to leave early so that my child can reach school on time. There are other students in this area as well, and they are all facing a lot of problems because of this."

The safety of commuters is also a cause for concern because of all the stones and debris that are spread across the stretch.

A resident who wanted to remain anonymous said, "The stones and construction debris are spread all over the road. They can cause serious injuries to all the commuters using this road. Even the kids in the area can fall and hurt themselves."

Bangalore Mirror tried to contact a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) official in the area, but his phone was unreachable.

whatsapp
MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage accumulating Kadugodi



A lot of garbage has accumulated on the platform beside Anjaneya temple in Belathur main road, Kadugodi for a year.

Occupied footpaths Indiranagar



On 17th Main, Indiranagar residents have occupied entire blocks of footpaths by placing flower pots and plants.

Garbage burning Thanisandra



Garbage is being burned by people in Thanisandra main road.

Felling trees? Don't forget to consult public

B'uru to see axing of 698 trees for railway doubling project, experts point out lack of public consultation

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In consideration of yet another infrastructure project, Bengaluru is set to lose hundreds of trees anew. In a recent order passed by the Tree Expert Committee (TEC), as many as 736 trees will be making way for a railway doubling project by Rail Infrastructure Development Compa-

ny (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE).

K-RIDE had sought permission for clearance of 742 trees that are standing in the project area between Yeshwantpur and Channasandra railway stations. The Forest Cell of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) put out a public notice regarding this, inviting the public to file objections.

To respond to the public notice, an objection was filed, asking for public consultation as the number of trees to be removed from the location is high. However, BBMP officials say the power to conduct public consultation does not lie with the tree officer.

"According to the Karnataka Preservation of Trees (KPT) Act of 1976, the tree officer has the power to issue a public notice and thus obtain



File photo of huge trees cut at Kasturinagar in Bengaluru

public opinion only for the government proposals involving felling more than 50 trees in the public inter-

est," responded BBMP.

After a recent spot inspection by the BBMP and TEC, while as many as 698 trees will face the axe, 38 will be translocated to suitable places.

However, experts beg to differ. They say while the law does not talk about public consultation, it does not prohibit an authority from fulfilling the High Court's order in spirit.

"A tree officer can certainly call for a public consultation citing objections filed by the citizen. Such a response from the BBMP only indicates that they are not keen on implementing the order in spirit. This is the issue we have raised through a PIL filed by us as well," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee, Bangalore Environment Trust.

Experts have yet again pointed to

the lack of public objections in response to the notices. Only one objection was filed in response to the notice for K-RIDE's railway doubling project. They opine that the Forest Cell of BBMP must start circulating these notices on social media.

"Just one objection filed implies that people are not looking at or missing these public notices being printed in newspapers. Moreover, nobody regularly goes to the BBMP website to keep a tab. The deputy conservator of forests (DCF) should look at the wide circulation of these notices through the Palike's social media sites. Although there is no such provision in the KPT Act, considering that very few objections are being received, such methods must be explored now," added Devare.

Biking across the nation

Two Bengalureans cycle from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in 21 days; duo overcomes challenges related to weather, health, and food scarcity while biking through difficult terrain



Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Peddalling a few kilometre in hot sun can be a challenge. However, two Bengalureans have cycled from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in just 21 days. Despite numerous challenges, the cyclists have pedalled 3,900 kilometre.

Rahul Nair, 41, who runs a sport based management company, told Bangalore Mirror that he wanted to dedicate this cycling trip to his father, who passed away in December.

"For Kanyakumari to Kashmir (K2K) ride, first, we got support for the ride from our respective families as this was a tough and dangerous ride. From the outset, we decided that we will not get a support vehicle or any external help for this ride. We also decided that we will only ride between 5 am and 7 pm. We then drew up a route plan across India from Kanyakumari to Kashmir," he said.

This included highways, towns, coasts, and mountains. Along this route, we found four people who were willing to help us with logis-

tics: one each in Mangaluru, Pune, Jaipur and Jammu, he added.

"We couriered cycling dress, spare tubes, etc., to each of these people in advance. The plan was to collect these parcels and hand over soiled clothes to them to courier back to Bengaluru. This way, we could carry less luggage and travel faster," he explained.

For 46-year old architect Tasneem Mohsin Topiwala, the cycling expedition was not just an adventure but very challenging too.

"Our health was also a challenge. I had digestion issues where I couldn't intake enough quantity of food for a few days. Rahul had a day of diarrhea. In between, both of us had aches and pains in different parts of the body on many days. I had a fall from the cycle as well," said Tasneem.

Furthermore, the major issue they faced was mechanical trouble with the bikes. Tasneem's bike's rear hanger (the part which connects the gears to the cycle frame) broke down. The two cyclists then had to send the bike to the nearest city to get it repaired.

The cyclists travelled from Kanyakumari along the west coast to reach Pune, and from there to



Rahul Nair and Tasneem Mohsin Topiwala travelled along the west coast to reach Pune, and from there to north India

"For Kanyakumari to Kashmir (K2K) ride, first, we got support for the ride from our respective families as this was a tough and dangerous ride. We then drew up a route across India" —Rahul Nair

Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Ambala, Jammu, and Srinagar.

"At the end of each day, our friends would give us details like route condition, elevation, cities or towns along the way, and factors like weather and wind conditions ahead. Based on this, we would decide how much distance we can cycle the next day," explained Rahul.

Based on this information, their spouses looked for stay options

along the route. Even after this planning, there were situations they had not expected. For example, in Haryana, there was a new expressway that ran for 400 km without hotels or places of rest along the way. When their bottles ran dry, they had to jump the barriers/railings and find a farmer's house to refill water.

"Between Jammu and Kashmir valleys, we ended up in a small town where there was no accommodation. We asked for help in the police station. All of these people were so kind and helped us with food and water (farmer) and stay (police SSP)," he informed.

Despite all these challenges, the biggest challenge, however, was the weather. Out of the 21 days, 17 were spent under the hot sun while the four other days in Punjab were very cold. The cyclists would pedal an average of 185 km every day, including days of 120 km on mountainous roads and 250 km on flat highways. The duo carried around 7-9 kilograms of luggage on each of the cycles.

Eat well to shield yourself from the flu

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With the city experiencing a rise in flu and covid cases, the health department has issued a 'dietary advisory' for the residents to safeguard themselves. The advisory asks Bengalureans to consume fresh and unprocessed foods every day.

According to the advisory, fresh fruits and vegetables, legumes (lentils, beans), nuts, whole grains (maize, millet, oats, wheat, brown rice), starchy tubers or roots (potato and yam), and foods from animal sources (meat, fish, eggs, and milk) can be consumed.

"For fruit juice and dried fruit, make sure it is 100 per cent fruit juice, not a juice drink with added sugar. Fresh fruit is the best choice. For snacks, choose raw vegetables and fresh fruit rather than foods that are high in sugar, fat or salt. Do not overcook vegetables and fruit as this can lead to the loss of important vitamins. When using canned or dried vegetables and fruit, choose varieties without added salt or sugar," stated the advisory.

Persons with diabetes, hypertension, obesity, heart disease, cancer, renal dialysis, cancer, etc., must seek medical consultation and follow the diet advised therein, it informed.

Furthermore, the department suggests Bengalureans drink enough water every day.

"Drink 8-10 glasses of water every day. It is essential for life processes: to transport nutrients and compounds in blood, regulate your body temperature, get rid of waste, and also lubricates and cushions joints. Water is the best choice, but you can also consume other drinks, fruits and vegetables that contain water," it explained.

A spurt in the incidence of seasonal influenza cases has been observed across India in recent times. While the highest numbers of cases have been reported from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat, the rise in influenza has also been noticed in the state of Karnataka by ICMR lab data analysis.

Better lab for brighter future

Hombe Gowda High School's science laboratory gets unexpected upgrade

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The students of Hombe Gowda High School have been struggling to use their laboratory for years due to insufficient basic infrastructure. Thanks to efforts by the Karnataka State Forest Development Corporation (KSFDC), the laboratory has finally been upgraded and they no longer have to stress about attending chemistry practical classes.

"The science lab will benefit more than 300 high school students and 350 students from the PU College. Some college students can also utilise the laboratory. We already had a laboratory, but it was in a poor condition due to a lack of funds. We are very happy to have this innovative science laboratory," said the headmaster of Hombe Gowda High School.

Bhagyavathi Amaresh, one of the directors of KSFDC and a former student of the school, learned about the condition of the science laboratory and submitted a proposal to upgrade the same under the KSFDC's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

"I submitted the proposal to the KSFDC and the laboratory has been upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 10,50,000. The KSFDC will contribute Rs 8,50,000 to the laboratory and we will bear the remaining cost," said Amaresh.

Amaresh also appealed to all former students who could afford to donate money for the development of infrastructure at the school to come forward and do so



KSFDC Chairman Anuradha, students, and faculty members at the inauguration of the science lab in Hombe Gowda High School

"I submitted the proposal to the KSFDC and the lab has been upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 10,50,000. KSFDC will contribute Rs 8,50,000"

— Bhagyavathi Amaresh, one of the directors of KSFDC

for the benefit of the present students. "I appeal to all the past pupils to work for the betterment of Hombe Gowda High School. There will be no infrastructure problems at the school if all the former students donate something from their earnings as they are the beneficiaries of this school," she said.

KSFDC Managing Director Radha Devi stated that the KSFDC

has earned a profit and decided to allocate around Rs 60 lakh for the development of government schools. "We have advised all the directors to submit proposals for the development of government schools in their respective areas. Each of the directors can submit a proposal worth Rs 8,50,000," she said.

KSFDC Chairman Tara Anuradha said that they have

earned a profit for the first time. "The KSFDC was on the verge of closure due to the loss incurred by it. After becoming the chairman, I ensured that the administration was transparent, which enabled us to earn a profit. The KSFDC came forward to upgrade the laboratory at this school as it is very important for the students who have taken up science," said Anuradha.

Cops chargesheet PFI workers

KG Halli police submitted a 10,196-page charge sheet to the special court of the National Investigation Agency against arrested PFI workers. The charge sheet has been filed against 15 people, including PFI President Naseer Pasha. A case under UAPA has been registered against nine activists and investigation is underway. A charge sheet under IPC 153 A has been filed against the remaining five.

Last year on September 24, 2022, KG Halli police raided 17 different areas based on a tipoff that PFI leaders were allegedly involved in illegal activities and arrested 15 people.

The accused were found to have direct links with senior PFI leaders. It was found that those working in the office had a network across Karnataka. —BMB

Luxury car rally for 'girl power'

A luxury car and bike rally was organised on Sunday to instil confidence and create awareness among women on the occasion of International Women's Day. The 7-km rally was flagged off at Den Hotel Bengaluru by Guru Prasad of Indian Oil Corporation.

"I want women to become financially independent and self-reliant. Women have achieved a lot in politics, movies, theatre, science and other segments," he said.

Around 40 luxury cars and 20 bikes participated in the rally organised by She for Society and Indian Oil Corporation.

"Around 20 women bikers participated in the rally. We have launched a luxury car club today," said Harshini Venkatesh, one of the founding members of She for Society.

She said that the NGO has also established five computer training centres for the benefit of ex-servicemen, 'Veer Naris', and their children in five districts of Karnataka. They also want to establish computer training centres in all district headquarters across Karnataka in the near future.

Harshini said a fashion show has also been organised. "All of us will participate in a drumming event," she added. — Y Maheswara Reddy



Women take part in the luxury car and bike rally on Sunday at the Den Hotel, Bengaluru

NOTES FROM THE FIELD



'Age appropriate' questions

Is there any correlation between age and questions? A lot, going by Housing Minister V Somanna. The BJP MLA from Govindarajanagar has been in the news for rumours floating of him allegedly switching

sides. When journalists sought to know his views, he shot back, saying, "This question is not appropriate for my age. Instead, ask me only those questions which suit my age and experience."

Health factor

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) project director BT Sridhar has been facing a volley of questions from all quarters over chaos at toll booths in the Mysuru expressway. When Sridhar was questioned about why he was not answering calls for clarification, he surprised everyone saying that he had been ill. "When I was leaving my home in Mysuru, I had severe chest pain. I had to head out to a hospital for ECG and check my blood pressure. I have a lot of limi-

tations and am unable to answer 500 calls every day," he said.

Feathers ruffled



As the election scene heats up, leaders are vying to get unique garlands. Garlands are being made out of unique things from capsicum to pineapple. However, farmer leader Darshan Puttannaiah was in a soup recent-

ly when he received a garland made out of peacock feathers. As soon as the news went viral on social media, forest department officials jumped into action and issued notices to those who offered those garlands as it violated the wildlife act.

Selfie trouble

An examination invigilator was in a pickle when she clicked a selfie in an exam hall during the ongoing PU exams. As the news went viral, the education department officials sought to take action against her as she took a selfie in the exam centre when students were busy writing their tests. Mobile phones are also banned in the exam hall. However, the invigilator said that she wanted to click a selfie to document that everything was running smoothly in the exam hall.

—Sridhar Vivan

Adani Group suspends work on Mundra port

Company to focus on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns after Hindenburg report

#New Delhi

Adani Group has suspended work on a Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project at Mundra in Gujarat as it focuses on resources to consolidate operations and address investor concerns following a damning report by a US-based short seller, sources said. The group's flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had in 2021 incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Mundra Petrochem Ltd for setting up a greenfield coal-to-PVC plant at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) land in Kutch district of Gujarat.

But after Hindenburg Research's January 24 report alleging accounting fraud, stock manipulations and other corporate governance lapses chopped off about USD 140 billion from the market value of Gautam Adani's empire, the apples-to-airport group is hoping to claw back and calm jittery investors and lenders through a comeback strategy.

The comeback strategy is based on addressing investor concerns around debt by repaying some loans, consolidating operations, and fighting off allegations.

The group has denied all allegations levelled by Hindenburg. As part of this, projects are being re-evaluat-



The Rs 34,900 crore petrochemical project is based in Kutch, Gujarat

ed based on cashflow and finance available. And of the projects the group has decided not to pursue for the time being is the 1 million tonne per annum Green PVC project, two sources with knowledge of the matter said. The group has shot off mails to vendors and suppliers to "suspend all activities" on immediate basis.

In the mails, seen by PTI, the

group has asked them to "suspend all activities of the scope of work and performance of all obligations" for Mundra Petrochem Ltd's Green PVC project "till further notice."

This is the following "unforeseen scenario". The management, it said, was "re-evaluating various project/s being implemented at group level in different business verticals." — PTI

Rahul sends 4-page reply to police on sexual assault remark

#New Delhi

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has reportedly answered the Delhi Police regarding their query in connection with the sexual assault remark he made in Srinagar during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The sources said that Gandhi sent four-page reply to Delhi Police highlighting in 10 points.

However, the sources have said that the answers were not clear in nature.

A Delhi Police team led by Special CP, Law and Order, Dr Sagar Preet Hooda and DCP, New Delhi Pranav Tayal had reached Gandhi's home in Tughlak lane on Sunday morning to serve him a notice.

According to sources, the police team on March 15 had waited for three hours at Gandhi's residence to serve him notice, however, he did not meet them. Again on March 16, senior officers visited his residence and served the notice after waiting for one and a half hour.

A senior police officer said the notice was issued after the cops took cognizance of social media posts and sent a list of questionnaires.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi outside his residence in Delhi on Sunday

"... in one particular case, I asked a girl (who had been raped) if we should call the police? She said 'don't call the police... I will be shamed'," Rahul Gandhi had said during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar. Speaking with the media-persons, Dr Sagar Preet Hooda said that Gandhi made the statement on January 30 in Srinagar.

"This is very serious matter and we came here to gather more information in this connection. We need information regarding his speech and the victims so that we could initiate legal action into the matter and victims could get justice," said Hooda. — PTI

India, EU conclude another round of talks for proposed trade agreement

#New Delhi

India and the European Union (EU) on Saturday concluded the fourth round of talks for a comprehensive free trade agreement in Brussels, a move aimed at further strengthening economic ties between the two sides.

The next round of the talks is planned for 12-16 June here.

India and the 27-nation bloc resumed negotiations on June 17 last year after a gap of over eight years on the proposed agreements on trade, investments and Geographical Indications (GI).

"Round 4 of India EU-FTA negotiations held at Brussels," Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce has said in a tweet. She is India's chief negotiator for the agreement.

India had started negotiations for a trade pact with the EU in 2007 but the talks stalled in 2013 as both sides failed to reach an agreement on key issues, including customs duties on automobiles and spirits and the movement of professionals.

India's merchandise exports to EU member countries stood at about USD 65 billion in 2021-22, while imports aggregated USD 51.4 billion.

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. — PTI

Fresh FIR against fugitive preacher Amritpal, aides

#Chandigarh

A fresh FIR has been lodged against fugitive preacher Amritpal Singh and some of his associates in connection with possession of illegal weapons, said a senior police officer on Sunday. Amritsar Rural Senior Superintendent of Police Satinder Singh said seven of Amritpal's associates have been arrested under the provisions of the Arms Act. "We registered a fresh FIR last night under the Arms Act in which Amritpal is the key accused. All seven are also accused in this fresh FIR," the SSP said in Amritsar.

Police had on Saturday launched a major crackdown against Amritpal,

arresting 78 members of an outfit headed by him.

However, the hunt is on to catch Amritpal who gave the police a slip when his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district on Saturday. Police had earlier registered an FIR against Amritpal and his associates in the February 23 Ajnala incident. The SSP said Amritpal's seven associates, who were part of his convoy, were



arrested from a place near Mehatpur in Jalandhar on Saturday evening.

Six illegal 12 bore guns and 193 live cartridges were seized from the possession of the seven accused, identified as Ajaypal, Gurvir Singh, Baljinder Singh, Harminder Singh, Gural Singh, Suveer Singh, and Amandeep Singh, said the SSP.

"We will produce them before a court for police remand," he said. The officer said Harminder Singh was caught with a weapon and 139 cartridges. During questioning, he told police Amritpal had procured these cartridges through another person named Gurbhej. — PTI

'Lakhs of farmers headed to Delhi for kisan mahapanchayat'

#New Delhi

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Sunday said lakhs of farmers from across the country are on their way to Delhi to participate in the 'kisan mahapanchayat' that will be held at Ramlila Maidan on March 20.

The 'kisan mahapanchayat' will be held to press for a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP), the SKM, an umbrella body of farmers' union, had said last month.

Lakhs of farmers from various states and union territories are headed to Delhi to attend the 'kisan mahapanchayat' in Delhi on March 20, the SKM said in a statement.

Addressing a press conference here, SKM leader Darshan Pal said, "The Centre must fulfil the assurances it gave to us in writing on December 9, 2021 and also take effective steps to mitigate the ever-increasing crisis faced by farmers."



Medha Patkar with SKM leaders Darshan Pal and Hannan Mollah during a press conference

The SKM spearheaded an over a year-long agitation against the Centre's now-repealed farm laws. It suspended the movement in December 2021 following a government assurance to consider the farmers' pending demands, including the withdrawal of cases lodged against

farmers during the agitation and a legal guarantee for MSP.

The SKM has also urged the centre to dissolve the committee on MSP that was constituted by the Centre, alleging that it is contrary to the demands of the farmers.

Farmers' demands also include pension, debt waiver, compensation for those who died during the farmers' stir and withdrawal of the Electricity Bill. — PTI

BJP raises poll pitch in Old Mysuru region

With Assembly elections round the corner, the BJP is focused on the Old Mysuru region, where significant electoral gains are seen to be crucial for the party to come back to power in Karnataka on its own.

For decades, the BJP has struggled to spread its wings in the Vokkaliga community-dominated Old Mysuru region, with the well entrenched JD(S) and Congress holding sway.

The region comprises Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Kolar, Tumakuru and Hassan districts.

JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy and President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) D K Shivakumar belong to this community.

Among the 58 Assembly seats in these districts, JD(S) represents 24, Congress 18 and BJP 15. BJP also has the backing of expelled BSP MLA N Mahesh, who represents Kollegal in Chamarajanagar district.

In the Vokkaliga heartland of Mandya district, the JD(S) has six out of seven MLAs, three of



BJP National President JP Nadda with former Chief Minister and party leader BS Yediyurappa and party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel greets the supporters during a public meeting, in Tumakuru on Saturday

four MLAs in Ramanagara and six of the seven seats in Hassan.

The JD(S) has four out of 11 seats in Mysuru, whereas the Congress has four and BJP three in this district.

The regional party also has three seats in Tumakuru but the party is wary about the Gubbi MLA SR Srinivas who allegedly voted in favour of the BJP candidate during the Rajya Sabha elections in June last year.

The party came to power in

Karnataka four times and every time it emerged as the single largest party but fell short of the majority mark.

Twice, the party had to allegedly resort to 'Operation Lotus' to woo disgruntled opposition members and form a majority government.

The BJP, however, put up an impressive show in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, winning 25 of the 28 seats.

Shivakumar's brother DK

Suresh won from Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha constituency and JD(S) supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna emerged victorious in Hassan.

To BJP's comfort, the party backed independent candidate Sumalatha Ambareesh won from Mandya constituency, which had always been a JD(S) citadel.

The actor-turned-politician Sumalatha who defeated Deve Gowda's grandson and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, extended her 'full support' to the BJP on March 11, a day ahead of Prime Minister's visit to Mandya to launch a slew of projects including the most ambitious one - Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway.

The inauguration could have been done either in Mysuru or Bengaluru, but the Prime Minister opted for Mandya.

The JD(S) suffered a blow when the KR Pet MLA K C Narayana Gowda ditched the party during the "Operation Lotus" in 2019. **PTI**

Delayed infra work plays spoilsport



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our employees their salaries on time," Tejaswini Sudhakar of Vasavi Condiments told BM.

Pointing out the health hazard caused by the ongoing construction, the owner of an eatery who wished to remain anonymous said: "We sell food and beverages to many visitors. The construction process is generating dust that accumulates on the food that is being served to the customers. This is a serious health concern. The roads are too dangerous to frequent for anybody at present."

Srinath Reddy, a college student said he had visited the street with his friend after their exams and found the state of the area quite disappointing.

"I used to visit this street every weekend; this was the pride of our city. The present condition of the street is awful and even dangerous. I have seen many people get hurt. The street has lost its charm," said Amrutha, a resident of the area.

Nareish, the site engineer, told BM that the work commenced about a month ago. "We are providing new connections for underground and sewage lines. The project will be completed in a month. About 10-15 members are working on this project."

He further stated that KEB (Karnataka Electricity Board) shall start their work in the following week.

Access ramp up

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In Bengaluru south, over 14 police stations have ramps installed for the disabled. The ramps are installed at Banashankari, Basavanagudi Women's, Hanumanthanagar, Giri Nagar, Jayanagar, Koramangala, KS Layout, Bommanahalli, Adugodi, Subramanyapura, Shankarpura, VV Puram, Konanakunte and RR Nagar police stations.

Three police stations in Malleswaram constituency have also come forward to have the ramps installed at Malleswaram, Vyalikaval and Subramanya Nagar police stations.

Khandelwal and his team also installed ramps at public spots such as Bangalore One centres and post offices, where a large number of individuals gather daily. The next step for the team is to install ramps in educational institutions, allowing people to move around more easily and not be confined to their homes.

South zone MP Tejasvi Surya supported Khandelwal's efforts to install ramps in Bengaluru south, and MLA Ashwath Narayan helped with the installation of ramps in Malleswaram constituency.

"I believe in creating an inclusive society where everyone is treated with equal dignity and respect. We need to ensure that our cities are accessible for all, especially our specially abled citizens. I extend my wholehearted support to the RampMyCity project," said Khandelwal.

Your Connect

TO BOOK YOUR TIMES INTERACT ADS

Stay safe. Stay home.

Call/mail us for contact-less ad booking. To book your Times Interact ads

Call 080-23338111

All digital payment solutions available

education

IMMIGRATION

STUDY Abroad / Migrate to Canada, AUS, UK, USA & Singapore. (FREE IELTS Exam) high-pay 19740565005 www.visagrants.com

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

ELITE PUBLIC SCHOOL Kempe Gowda Layout Laggere Bangalore requires MCA, MA (English) B Ed, BA B Ed, MA (History) B.Ed qualified teachers. 9447727326/990030044

ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTANT

WANTED Accounts Asst. and Admin Asst. with 3 to 5 years of experience preferably in and around Banashankari 3rd Stage. Resume to : leogroupinfra@gmail.com

SERVICES

GOVERNESS

GOVERNESS / NANNY REQUIRED

Invite Application from 40+ Year Graduate Female who can handle a Baby - Accommodation will be provided.

Languages: Tamil, English Salary payable 60k monthly

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Help mother in various errands of Baby Coach / Attend to baby's needs as baby grows

Interested candidates please apply to bhakti.rambhila@mintinternational.com Mobile: 9820080414

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

JAYANAGAR

3BHK (Fully furnished) FLAT for SALE Near South End circle, Khazi street, 200 mtrs from KR Park. Rs.1.29Cr. Call: 9739702982, 9739703182

JP NAGAR

2BHK Flat (penthouse) for SALE with private deck space in JP Nagar. Near 24th main, Nandhini Hotel. Rs.69lacs+Reg. PH : 9739703182, 9739702982

PADMANABHA NAGAR

EAST facing 3BHK flats for sale in Padmanabhanagar near Kadirenahalli petrol pump. Superior construction. Rs.76 & 77 lacs. 9739702982, 9739703182

SARJAPUR ROAD

SARJAPURA ROAD SITE FOR SALE LAKESHORE HOMES LAYOUT 65x100 West Facing Prime Location Price 6,800 per sq ft Contact Owner no 9845779531 9880080211

YELAHANKA

2BHK FLAT for SALE in Hoysala Habitat Apartment in Haro Halli Nagenahalli main Road Yelahanka... Ph 9804898828/9844470000

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Shilpa Manojkumar W/O, Manoj Kumar Hunasimarad R/o Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru have changed my name to Shilpa S Dodwad

I, Muralidhara Srinivas Sastri, S/o LM Srivatsa F/o Srigrasuri Sastri R/o G7 Chaitanya Samarpan Whitefield-Hoskote Main Road Kannamangala Post, Opp Sandeep Vihar, Bangalore - 560067, Karnataka declare that Muralidhara Srinivas Sastri and Srinivas Sastri are the name of one and same person.

I Madhu Kumar Krishnappa alias Madhu Kumar K Reddy alias Madhukumar K S/O. Krishnappa V R R/o #33 Indra Mahal 5th Stage 2nd Cross Bml Layout Sachidananda Nagar R.r.nagar Bangalore - 560098 have changed my name to Madhu Kumar Krishnappa Reddy for all purposes in future.

I Prerna Dinesh Kumar Pandey D/O, Dinesh Kumar Kamta Prasad Pandey R/o A002, A002, casa Dreams, 3rd Cross, c O Layout, devinagar, lottegollahalli, bangalore - 560094, have changed my name to Prerna Pandey

I, Vasu Somegowda R/o Door No: 39, 2nd Main, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwara Nagar Bangalore. 560079 have changed my minor son's name from Pratik K Vasu to Pratik Kodi Vasu for all purposes.

I Anil Somnath Kokradu S/O Kokradu Somnath Rao R/o H No. 3, Water Woods, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield Bangalore 560066 have changed my name to Anil Somnath Kokradu for all purposes.

I, Anjana Sangondil D/o Giriappa R/o #9 Ground Floor, 1st Main, Kaveri Layout Nagarabhatti Main Road, Bengaluru-560040 have changed my name to Anjana Mallappa Punjapagol for all purposes.

I Vedaant Venkatraman S/O Venkatraman Krishnaswami R/o F3b, Monarch Manor Eshwara Layout Indiranagar have changed my name to Vedant Venkatraman Iyer

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

GALLERIA

ANAND
ಆನಂದ್
JOHNSON
The entire world of Bangalore.
ಜಾನ್ಸನ್
VESTS-BRIEF-BRA-PANTY-SLIPS-TOWELS
Wallets, Ladies Fancy Bags & Clutches
Only @ Since 1957
BRIGHTWAYS
Wholesalers
Ph: 080-22237504
Mob: 9742202223
Shop Online @ www.brightways.in



Gods in the machine



Rise of artificial intelligence may result in new religions

Divine access and risks

AI-based religions will look different from traditional ones. First of all, people will be able to communicate directly with the deity, on a daily basis. This means these religions will be less hierarchical, since no one can claim special access to divine wisdom.

Second, followers will, at least initially, connect with each other online to share their experiences and discuss doctrine. Finally, because there will be many different chatbots available and their output will differ over time, AI-based religions will be endlessly diverse in their doctrines.

AI worship poses several notable risks. The chatbots may ask their followers to do dangerous or destructive things, or followers may interpret their statements as calls to do such things.

Given the diversity of chatbots and of the doctrines they produce, there will be a proliferation of disputes within and among AI-based sects, which could lead to conflict or disorder. And the designers of the AIs could actively exploit their followers — to provide sensitive data, or to do things that would benefit the bot's designers.

Regulating religion

These risks are real. They will require careful, responsible regulation to ensure companies are not deliberately exploiting users and to ensure that AI worshippers are not being told to commit acts of violence.

However, we should not try to suppress AI-based religions merely because of its possible dangers. Nor should we require that the AI companies restrict the functioning of their bots to prevent the emergence of these religions.

On the contrary, we should

celebrate the arrival of AI worship. We should make it clear that we welcome the new religions and that we value their beliefs.

For all its dangers, AI-based religion has the potential to make the world a better, richer place. It will give people access to a new source of meaning and spirituality, at a time when many older faiths are losing relevance. It will help them make sense of our era of rapid technological change.

Our best guide to this new form of religion is to look at the faiths that exist already. Based on this, we should expect that the majority of AI worshippers, like the majority of religious believers, will be peaceful, and will find in their faith a source of comfort and hope.

AI worship could, as religious faith always has, lead to things of great beauty. It will inspire its followers to produce works of art, to form new friendships and new communities, and to try to change society for the better.

Diverse religious rights

We will need to protect the rights of AI worshippers. They will inevitably face stigma, and possibly legal sanctions. But there is no basis to discriminate between AI-based religions and more established ones.

The closest thing most countries have to an official registry of religions comes from the rulings of tax authorities, who grant charitable status to those they deem legitimate. However, they are usually very broad in their definition of a legitimate religion. They should extend this tolerant attitude to novel, AI-based religions.

A modern, diverse society has room for new religions, including ones devoted to the worship of AI. They will provide further evidence of humanity's boundless creativity, as we search for answers to life's ultimate questions. The universe is a dazzling place, and we have always found evidence of the divine in its most unexpected corners.

— By Neil McArthur, University of Manitoba (The Conversation)

We are about to witness the birth of a new kind of religion. In the next few years, or perhaps even months, we will see the emergence of sects devoted to the worship of artificial intelligence (AI).

The latest generation of AI-powered chatbots, trained on large language models, have left their early users awestruck — and sometimes terrified — by their power. These are the same sublime emotions that lie at the heart of our experience of the divine.

People already seek religious meaning from very diverse sources. There are, for instance, multiple religions that worship extra-terrestrials or their teachings.

As these chatbots come to be used by billions of people, it is inevitable that some of these users will see the AIs as higher beings. We must prepare for the implications.

Risks of AI worship

There are several pathways by which AI religions will emerge. First, some people will come to see AI as a higher power.

Generative AI that can create or produce new content possesses several characteristics that are often associated with divine beings, like deities or prophets:

It displays a level of intelligence that goes beyond that of most humans. Indeed, its knowledge appears limitless.

It is capable of great feats of creativity. It can write poetry, compose music and generate art, in almost any style, close to instantaneously.

It is removed from normal human concerns and needs. It does not suffer physical pain, hunger, or sexual desire.

It can offer guidance to people in their daily lives.

It is immortal.

Second, generative AI will produce output that can be taken for religious doctrine. It will provide answers to metaphysical and theological questions, and engage in the construction of complex worldviews.

On top of this, generative AI may ask to be worshipped or may actively solicit followers. We have already seen such cases, like when the chatbot used by the search engine Bing tried to convince a user to fall in love with it.

We should try to imagine what an unsettling and powerful experience it will be to have a conversation with something that appears to possess a superhuman intelligence and is actively and aggressively asking for your allegiance.

There is also the possibility that AI may achieve what authors such as Ray Kurzweil call the Singularity, when it so far surpasses human intelligence that it genuinely does become something like a god. However, at this point we cannot predict when, if ever, this could happen.

Generative AI that can create or produce new content possesses several characteristics that are often associated with divine beings, like deities or prophets

MIND, BODY & HEART



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a 30-year-old woman and have a bit of an unusual problem. My parents have never married but my dad confided in me that he was going to ask mum to marry him after more than three decades together.

I was delighted. I always hated the fact that I was the only kid among my friends whose parents weren't married. The plan was to propose to my mum on her 60th birthday. Here's the problem - my mum said no!

It wasn't an angry no and she loves my dad and absolutely doesn't want their relationship to end, but she says they've come this far without being married and maybe that's the secret to their success. My dad was shattered. I feel awful for him and am annoyed with my mum.

COLEEN SAYS

Well, I kind of understand where your mum is coming from - why fix something that not only isn't broken, but is actually very good? I know a piece of paper shouldn't make a difference, but I also know that sometimes, psychologically, it can.

Maybe you could open a discussion with your mum and ask her what she's scared of, and it might simply be that she's worried marriage will change things somehow.

Lots of people don't believe they need a piece of paper to show commitment. But I also understand your dad being upset.

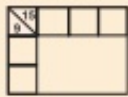
Maybe he's thinking she doesn't love him as much as he thought she did. I think your mum probably needs to reassure your dad some more that she loves him and doesn't see the need because they're happy. Perhaps you could all go out for a meal and listen to each other.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

If 2 hours ago it was as long after one o'clock in the afternoon as it was before one o'clock in the morning, what time would it be now?

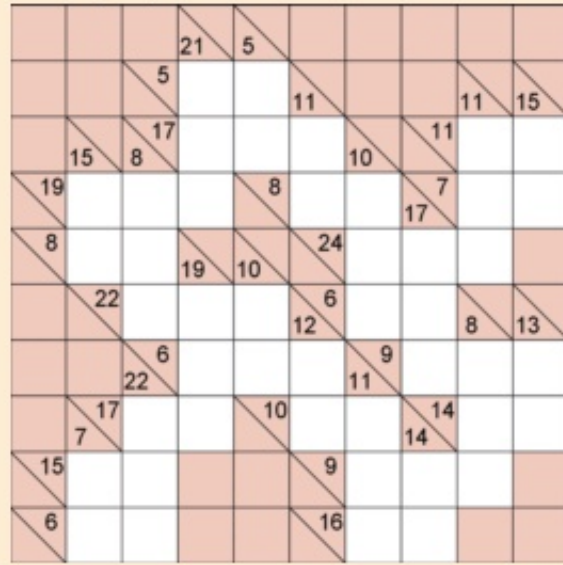
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

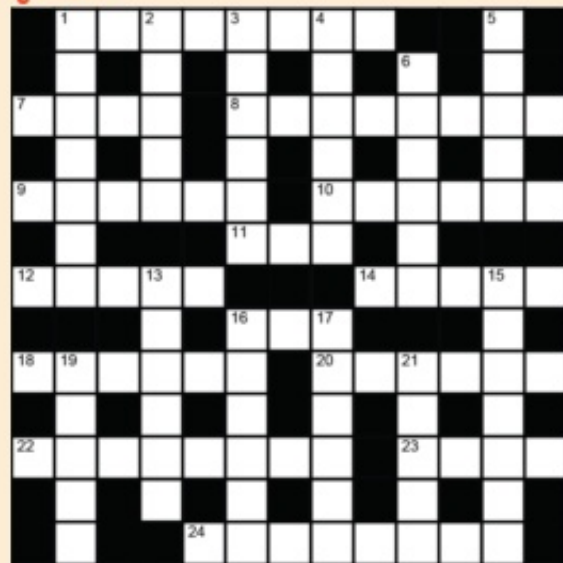


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Percussion instrument (8)
- 7 At liberty (4)
- 8 Fragrant white flower (8)
- 9 Covered with wool (6)
- 10 A roof beam (6)
- 11 Karl Marx's ____ Kapital (3)
- 12 Playground fixture (5)
- 14 Execute without authority or the due process of law (5)
- 16 Smartphone program (3)
- 18 Supported, fortified or propped (6)
- 20 Fresh; modern (6)
- 22 With ____ : in an enthusiastic and warm manner? (4,4)
- 23 Distinctive doctrines (4)
- 24 TV (slang) (5,3)

DOWN

- 1 Panacea (4,3)
- 2 Biblical queen (5)
- 3 Squabbled (6)
- 4 Mistakes (6)
- 5 Handbook (5)
- 6 Bell tower (6)
- 13 Seemly; appropriate (6)
- 15 Multiplex on Outer Ring Road (7)
- 16 Idolised; cherished (6)
- 17 Played quickly (music) (6)
- 19 Our currency? (5)
- 21 Go up (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS C
JLYS LV VMBSGDLCE GDFG
DFAASCV ZDSC WMQ HFC'G
ESG GM VJSSA.



Linemaro

I love the shape of your ears



Mindchow

There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness



Joke of the day

I made my 8-month-old son spaghetti bolognese for dinner. To save time, I rubbed the mince on his face and threw the rest on the carpet

Loop

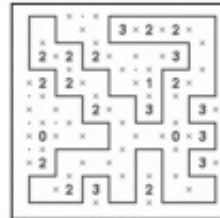
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

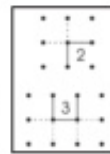
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

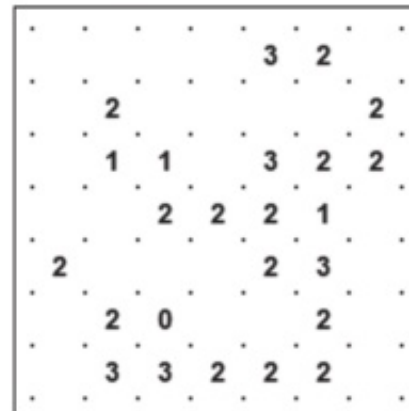
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



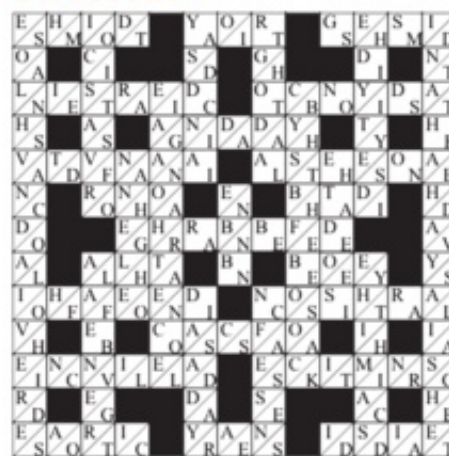
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



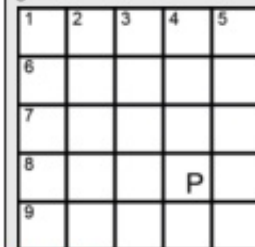
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Fater; 6 Olive;
- 7 Rosin; 8 Taped;
- 9 Dunes

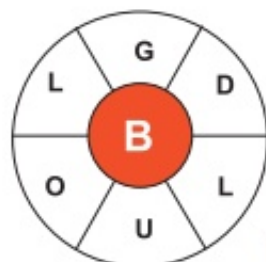
DOWN

- 1 A vain; 2 Found;
- 3 Tried; 4 E Pole;
- 5 Tress

Mensapuzzle

What numbers should go on the bottom line?

3	6	9	15
8	2	10	12
11	8	19	27
19	10	29	39
?	?	?	?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

2 3 4 5 = 10

Medium

3 4 8 8 = 17

Hard

3 7 8 6 = 24

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Flag on mailbox is moved. 3. Bow tie is different. 4. Stripe is missing from pants. 5. Mailbox post is wider. 6. Window is different.

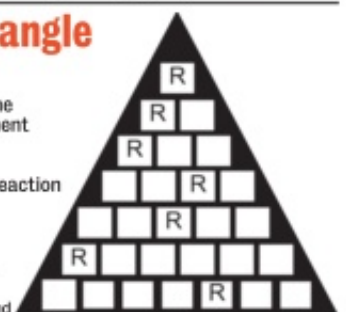
Riddler

You are given five words and five definitions. Each of the words can be anagrammed into a two word phrase that fits one of the definitions. Your task is to assign each definition to its corresponding word. Example-cobalt: to hit a feline in a high arc (cat lob) Words: armadillo, grandmother, pharmacist, sedimentary, vacation Definitions: a bed for a bird a mob, all carrying guns a wagon accident filthy sailors pungent pickle odor

Alpha triangle

- 1 Roentgen
- 2 Again, prefix
- 3 The Catcher in the
- 4 Stringed instrument
- 5 Time for bed
- 6 Indeed!
- 7 Hypersensitive reaction

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in your business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in family life. Singles may likely find a good match. Love birds may take the decision to get married.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may be busy at work. You may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to take quick decisions, which will increase your business. You may likely start a new innovation in partnerships. Investing in fixed assets in partnerships is not advised.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may feel energetic, and you may perform efficiently at work. Your hard work may pay you now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network. Disputes with your partner may also be resolved.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You may likely have some changes in your position or place of work in terms of promotions. You are likely to control opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may take important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work and expect some promotions or transfer in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with seniors will be strong. Old health issues will be cured now.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are polite with people around you. You may take some difficult decisions in your business with the help of your family members. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills, which may increase business.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, the moon is positive, and your health may be good. You may likely visit a spiritual place with family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to a spiritual place or to some charity. Property-related deals may likely be done. You may plan for an overseas work-related trip. You may also plan for higher education.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control, and you will enjoy work. Your focus may be good, which will reflect in your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to take tough decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments may likely give profits.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may have good internal strength, enjoy work, and romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new projects. Your perfection may help you to implement the plans successfully. Job seekers may find a good job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, the moon is negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies. You are advised to avoid being involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this messy situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in domestic life. You should also avoid rash driving or any adventurous tours.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may have a dull feeling. You may be dissatisfied and not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance, which may affect your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may feel disappointed and are advised to control your arrogance. Your harsh speaking may cause you to face losses while interacting with people around you. Love birds should be careful in discussing worthless topics as it may affect their relationship.



KIDZONE



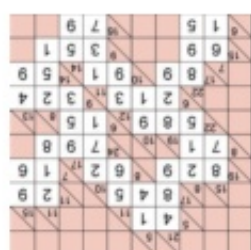
B Priya,
11 Years,
Evershine
English
School



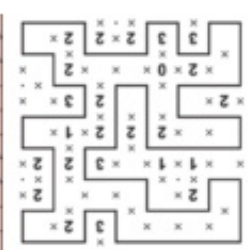
Sriyaji,
9 Years,
Venkat
International
Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

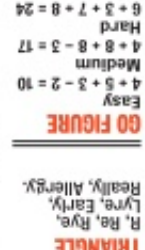
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



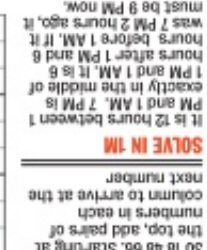
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



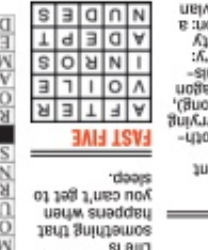
MENSA PUZZLE



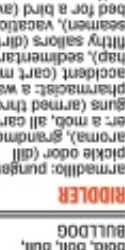
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



BULL'S EYE

No shortcut

'Sustaining in films bigger challenge than achieving success'

Even though she started out her journey in the movies with a clarity about the kind of roles she would want to portray, actor Yami Gautam says the "out of sight, out of mind" approach deflected her towards making conventional choices.

The Himachal Pradesh-born actor made her debut with 2012's "Vicky Donor" and followed it up with films such as "Badlapur" and "Kaabil". In between, she featured in some stereotypical heroine roles, but according to her, things changed for good post "Uri: The Surgical Strike" and "Bala", both 2019 releases.

"For me the awareness was always there right from my first film. When I look back 10 years ago, I auditioned for a film like 'Vicky Donor'... Even then, I was clear about the kind of films I wanted to associate with.

"But your real journey starts with your second film. It is not about getting success with a particular film, it is about what follows after that and how you sustain that. I think that is a bigger challenge," Yami told PTI in an interview here.

Looking back, the 34-year-old actor said there were certain decisions she took as she wanted to be seen.

"At the end of the day it is like, 'out of sight, out of mind' so you have to do something. If a certain kind of film is coming, you do it. One is like, 'Okay, let's do it'. But there's no fun in it," she added.

She has evolved into a much careful artiste now and only considers a project on the basis of the script, said Yami.

"I read a script very carefully and make my notes, even for the films that I don't do. I share it with the director as I feel for the writers."

The actor said her failures have taught her there are no "shortcuts".

"Everyone has to go through ups and downs. There is a learning curve that we all have to go through the hard way. Hard way is the best way, there are no shortcuts to anything," she added. Over the years, Yami believes she has also realised that being part of something which doesn't have her heart is the "worst" feeling.

"There is a time when you become fearless and feel that rather than doing this it is okay to sit at home and wait... Because I have done that in the past and it is the worst feeling.

".. So now I look at things that I believe in," the actor said. —PTI



On a song

Mahi Shivashankar paid tributes to his favourite actor Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar on the occasion of the latter's 48th birthday celebrations. Mahi released an audio song — Appu Kathagaanam — at Kalavidara Sangha on Thursday.

"I have made some music videos in Telugu and bankrolled two Telugu movies under BVM Creations banners. Now, we are preparing to launch a Kannada movie," said Mahi.

Asked about the song, he said, "Puneeth Rajkumar's acting skills, lifestyle and philanthropy made me become his fan. I had nourished an ambition of making a movie with Puneeth Rajkumar but it did not happen..." he said.

He said that he acted in the song and will also play the lead in the Kannada movie that is expected to go on floors shortly.



Kiara, Ram Charan all set



Kiara Advani is all set to resume the shoot for S Shankar's upcoming directorial RC-15 in Hyderabad. She will be joining Ram Charan for a song shoot schedule after the RRR star returned to India after the glorious win of Naatu Naatu song at the Oscars. She jetted off to Hyderabad on Saturday. Now all eyes are on the duo as they prepare for their next film together.

Earlier, Kiara had shared her excitement to work with Ram Charan in her first-ever pan-India project. "Even though I am not allowed to reveal much about the story and my character just now yet, I can say, it is a different world altogether. We know the genius Shankar sir is, he can turn any story and char-



acter larger than life. He is like a magician and working with him is a huge learning lesson for me." —ETimes

Relationship milestones

Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor are all about relationship goals! In 2016, Malaika parted ways from Arbaaz Khan and went on to date Arjun Kapoor. Speaking about the same, the actress said at the India Today Conclave that after she found love in a younger man post divorce, people told her she had lost her marbles. Malaika stated that love doesn't have an age and went on to spill the beans on her wedding plans. In no hurry to get married, Malaika said that they are currently enjoying the pre-honeymoon phase.

Previously, Malaika had opened up about her romance and said, "We're at a mature stage where there's still room for more discoveries, but we'd love to see a future together and see where we can take it from here. We laugh and joke about it, but we're damn serious, too. You have to feel positive and



secure in your relationship. I am happy and positive. Arjun gives me that confidence, and it's both ways. Yes, I don't think we should be opening all the cards at once. We still love our life and romance together every single day. I always tell him that I want to grow old with you. We will figure out the rest, but I know he's my man." —ETimes

Wake up, it's Sunday

For Genelia Deshmukh, when Sunday morning is supposed to be mean waking up late but her kids have different plans on how to spend it.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Genelia dropped a video with her kids-Rahyl and Riaan while heading to play football at 6:30 am.

In the video, Genelia can be seen as sleepy but her kids are high on energy.

Sharing the video, she wrote, "Sunday morning is supposed to



mean waking up later but not when these 2 decide to play football at 6.30am."

Riteish and Genelia tied the knot on February 3, 2012.

They are doting parents to two kids, Rahyl and Riaan.

Riteish and Genelia made their Bollywood debuts with the 2003 film 'Tujhe Meri Kasam'. They fell in love with the sets of the film and have been together for close to two decades.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Genelia recently marked her Marathi debut with 'Ved', which is her husband Riteish Deshmukh's directorial debut.

It is Genelia's maiden Marathi venture. —ANI

Directors' artiste

Ashwin Hasan, an upcoming actor in Sandalwood, desires to become a directors' artiste. Ashwin hails from Hasan and his passion towards theater and movies made him quit a lucrative job at an Indian multinational company.

"My parents were not happy when I quit the job in September 2014. Like any other parents, my parents also chided me for quitting the job but my better half Divya supported me to pursue acting as a career," says Ashwin.

After quitting the job, Ashwin became a full-fledged artiste in the Kannada film industry. So far, he has acted in around 70 Kannada movies. "I happen to play cop characters in a majority of my movies. I played different character roles in other movies but they are yet to be released. My ambition is to become a directors' artiste. I consider myself as a successful artiste when directors select me for their movies without even discussing or meeting me," he said.

Last year, 12 of his movies were released and this year, within three month, six movies were released. His movies that are yet to be released are: Dasara, Royal, Saptha Saagaradaache, Kaiva, Yentha Kathe Maaraaya, Not Out, Night Curfew, Gray Games.

